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November 28, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: 21st Century Cures Act**

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Reid, Speaker Ryan, and Minority Leader Pelosi:

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) strongly supports *the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act* and encourages a “yes” vote on this important legislation when it is considered by the House and Senate this session. We applaud the House Energy and Commerce and Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committees in their bipartisan work on this pivotal legislation. It is more important than ever to realize the potential that big data and precision medicine have to offer in new treatments to patients, and this legislation will help in that effort.

Many provisions in this legislation will help move toward rapid development and dissemination of these important advances. As the professional society representing more than 41,000 members treating patients with cancer, ASCO asks that you see this commitment through to final passage.

We strongly support *the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act*, because of the following provisions;

- Increasing interoperability of Electronic Health Records and preventing the practice of intentional information blocking.
- Providing much needed supplemental funding for the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration.
- Requiring transparency for expanded access programs.
- Requiring use of centralized Institutional Review Boards when appropriate.
- Encouraging data standardization, such as requirements for ClinicalTrials.gov.

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*Making a world of difference in cancer care*

- Refining Sunshine Act provisions to ensure necessary access by physicians to Continuing Medical Education and peer-reviewed literature.
- Allowing for patient-focused drug development.
- Clarifying the definition of a “clinician-led clinical data registry.”
- Providing funding to address the nation’s opioid crisis.

We commend the House and Senate for its leadership and bipartisan work over the past 2 years that has led to this significant legislation. We look forward to working to ensure the enactment of *the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures* legislation and to working with appropriators in the future to ensure the additional funds authorized in this legislation go towards vital projects, such as jumpstarting the Cancer Moonshot Initiative at the National Cancer Institute. If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact Amanda Schwartz at (571) 483-1647 or [Amanda.Schwartz@asco.org](mailto:Amanda.Schwartz@asco.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Hayes', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel F. Hayes, MD, FACP, FASCO  
President, American Society of Clinical Oncology

Cc: All Members of the United States Congress